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# Headquarters Alabama Division United Sons of Confederate Veterans

Circular No. 6.

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Thomas M. Owen, Commander of the Alabama  
Division, unanimously proposed for  
Commander-in-Chief, U. S. C. V.

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MONTGOMERY, December 15, 1904.

*Comrades:*

The Alabama Division in fourth annual session in the city of Mobile, November 15, 1904, unanimously proposed Thomas M. Owen, Division Commander, to our Confederation for the position of commander-in-chief, and the undersigned were appointed a committee to present his candidacy. The resolution is as follows:

WHEREAS, comrade Thomas M. Owen, commander of the Alabama Division, has served in that capacity several terms, at all times manifesting an enthusiastic and earnest zeal in the performance of his duties and in the accomplishment of the objects and purposes of the Confederation, and whereas his historical work as Director of the Department of Archives and History of the State of Alabama has attracted wide and favorable attention; and whereas, it is believed that the elevation of comrade Owen to the position of commander-in-chief of the Confederation would result in great good to the organization at large; now therefore be it

*Resolved, by the Alabama Division in fourth annual reunion convention assembled,* That comrade Thomas M. Owen is hereby respectfully proposed for the position of commander-in-chief of the United Sons of Confederate Veterans, at the election therefor in Louisville, Ky., in 1905.

Comrade Owen is a native of Alabama, a cultivated gentleman, and prominent in all patriotic work. On November 18, 1897, he was appointed Division judge advocate on the staff of P. H. Mell, first commander of the Alabama Division; October 12, 1898, appointed commander of the Division, and served continuously until September 9, 1901, when he voluntarily retired; re-elected Division commander November 12, 1902, November 4, 1903, and November 15, 1904.

In Confederation affairs he has been prominent. At the reunion in 1903 and 1904 he served as chairman of the committee on credentials. At the reunion in Nashville, 1904, he responded to the address of welcome on behalf of the U. S. C. V. before the joint session of Veterans and Sons. He served as a member of the Historical Committee, 1902-03, and as chairman of that committee, 1903-04. See



*Minutes*, 1903, pp. 47-8, and *Minutes*, 1904, pp. 19-24, for copies of reports by him. The historical work of comrade Owen has been conspicuous. He originated the Alabama plan of meeting the duty of the State to its archives (public records) and history by a separate Department of State, which was established by the Legislature of Alabama February 27, 1901, and of which he was elected first Director.

It is felt, as stated in the resolution, "that the elevation of comrade Owen to the position of commander-in-chief of the Confederation would result in great good to the organization at large." His selection would mean a progressive administration, in which the Confederation work in every phase would be courageously, earnestly and promptly carried on. He has a wide acquaintance over the whole South.

The Alabama Division, therefore, in announcing his candidacy, confidently appeals to members of our organization everywhere to unite in his support.

Address communications to the *Chairman*.

Very respectfully,

WM. W. BRANDON, *Chairman*, Montgomery,

WM. B. BANKHEAD, Huntsville,

CLARENCE J. OWENS, Anniston,

HOWARD GAILLARD, Mobile,

WILL T. SHEEHAN, Montgomery,

*Committee.*

Gift

W. C. Ford

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## Biographical Sketch

[From Lamb's *Biographical Dictionary of the United States* (Boston, 1903), Vol. vi, p. 99.]

OWEN, THOMAS McADORY, historian, was born in Jonesboro, Jefferson county, Alabama, December 15, 1866; son of Dr. William Marmaduke and Nancy (*McAdory*) Owen; grandson of Judge Thomas and Dolly Payne (*Williams*) Owen, and great-grandson of Marmaduke and Agnes (*Payne*) Williams. Agnes Payne was a first cousin of Dorothy Payne, wife of President James Madison. His Owen and Williams ancestors were seated in Henrico and Hanover counties, respectively, in Virginia, as early as the beginning of the eighteenth century, and his McAdory ancestor was a Scotch-Irish immigrant from North Ireland to South Carolina prior to the Revolutionary war. He was graduated from the University of Alabama, A. B. and LL. B., 1887, A. M., 1893. He was admitted to the bar in 1887 and practiced in Bessemer, Carrollton and Birmingham, Ala., until March 1, 1901, when he retired from the active practice of law and devoted himself to literary pursuits. He was married, April 12, 1893, to Marie, daughter of the Hon. John H. Bankhead. He was elected secretary of the Alabama Historical Society, June 21, 1898; secretary of the Sons of the Revolution in Alabama, April 16, 1894; and a member of the American Historical Association in 1894. He was one of the founders of the Southern History Association of Washington, D. C., April 24, 1896; was instrumental in the establishment of the Alabama Department of Archives and History, located in the State capitol at Montgomery, Ala., February 27, 1901, and was elected its Director, March 2, 1901, and in July, 1902, issued the first number of *The Gulf States Historical Magazine*, published bi-monthly. He edited the *Transactions of the Alabama Historical Society* (vols. 1 to 4, 1898-1903,) and the *Report of the Alabama History Commission* (1901). He is the author of a *City Code of Bessemer, Alabama* (1888); *Bibliography of Alabama* (1897); *Bibliography of Mississippi* (1900), *Annals of Alabama*, 1819-1900, being an addendum to Pickett's *History of Alabama* (1900); separate genealogies of the Lester, Strother, Eaton, Stansel, Lacey, Kelly, Fisher and Ross families; a *History of the Great Seal of Alabama*, and a sketch of *Ephraim Kirby, the first Superior Court Judge in what is now Alabama*. [He received the honorary degree of LL. D. from the University of Alabama, June 1, 1904; and is the founder and first president of the Alabama Library Association, organized at Montgomery, November 21, 1904.]

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